

## Training Makes DDJC Police Professionals

Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA's (DDJC) law enforcement community is in the middle of a major upgrade. Standards have been raised, training increased, and overall competency is on the rise. Chief of Police Walt Murken is putting emphasis on education and training. Attendance at the 10-week long Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is now a requirement of the job.

This comprehensive course is packed with sessions on law, jurisdiction, authority, civil liberties, emergency medical training, and weapons training, just to mention a few. "Right now I have six police officers attending the course," said Murken. "The guidance from DLA is that everyone must go."

Additionally, all lieutenants go to the California Peace Officers Standards and Training course. The two-week class emphasizes supervisory management techniques related to law enforcement and stressful issues.

Murken is also setting up in-house training, getting police certified training with firearms, defensive weapons, radar instruction and arrest procedures. Alvin Wong, who served over 20 years with the San Francisco Police Department and is a certified Peace Officer Standards and Training instructor, teaches arrest procedures and firearms training. Other police officers familiar with training principles help teach about defensive weapons and operating radar equipment.

"I also hope to work something out with the Modesto Regional Training Center for driving and report writing," said Murken. "They have driving simulators that can put you in a high speed pursuit and throw different obstacles at you."

Murken admits the majority of their dealings with the depot workforce is traffic related. However, getting employees in the gates and minimizing distractions is where their efforts



*Serving as the Rangemaster, Police Officer Mike Johnson conducts weapons training for the DDJC Police Department. Weapons are another issue that keep DDJC police busy.*

are focused. "Employees should not have to be concerned about illegal activities or other outside distractions," said Murken.

"Most of our work involves nonemployees," he said. Recently 13 illegal aliens working for contractors have been turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"Security is only a part of our duties," points out Murken.

"We are police officers." They went from Security Guards to Police Officers a few years ago. Their position descriptions changed and so did their pay. They are on a special pay table that pays them much more than their GS-5 counterparts. "We are working to become more professional, more competent and better police officers," noted Murken.

## DDRT Employees Presented With 30-Year Service Awards

*July 29, 2004 eight Defense Distribution Depot Red River, TX (DDRT) employees were presented with 30-year service awards. (Left to right) Debra Maxwell, Sharon Adams, Dorothy Atkins, Larry Cockrell, LTC Hugh B. Talley, Jr., DDRT Commander, Ronny Goff, Pinkie Houff, Wilma Leeks and Billy Lawing.*

